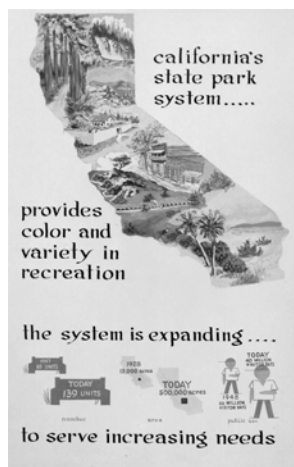


The Catalyst

The Newsletter for Interpretation in California State Parks

Summer 2014

Vol. 15, No. 2



150 Years of California State Parks





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Contributor's Guidelines

The Catalyst welcomes your original articles up to two pages in length. We prefer unpublished material, but will occasionally reprint items published elsewhere. Be sure to include information about the publication so we can get permission to use the material. If you have an article relating to one of the topics listed below, please submit it to the publisher or guest editor. Please include a photograph whenever possible.

We really appreciate items submitted on CD or by email in a PDF format. Please send photographs as separate files, not inserted into your document. You may also submit original photographs or other illustrations to *The Catalyst*. All photos and artwork submitted will be returned promptly. We reserve the right to edit all material. Items are selected for publication solely at the discretion of the publisher and guest editor. We appreciate your suggestions.

Guest Editors Wanted!

Are you looking for an opportunity to work with other writers on engaging interpretive topics? Would you like to develop and challenge your creative and technical skills? Then consider becoming a Guest Editor for an upcoming issue of *The Catalyst*. Among the topics we're planning for future issues are:

Interpretation and Technology
Social Media and Interpretation
Interpretive Planning
Marketing Interpretive Programs
Focusing on Education

Please contact Donna Pozzi with your ideas, Donna.Pozzi@parks.ca.gov.

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From the Guest Editors

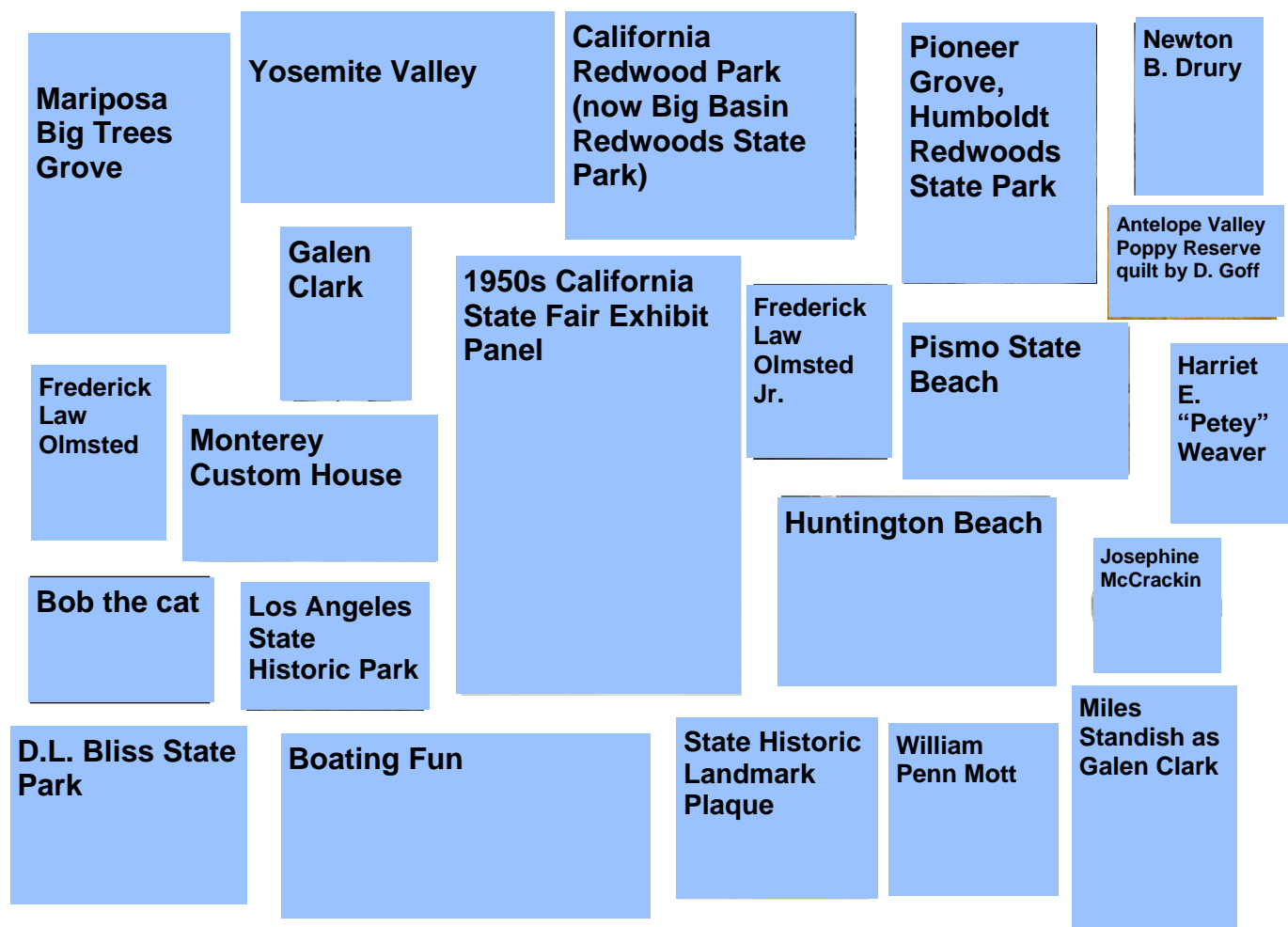
California State Parks is commemorating its 150th anniversary this year. In 1864 the federal government granted Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove to the State of California for the use of the people, creating one of the first wild lands park in the world. From this groundbreaking beginning, the system has grown to 280 park properties, spanning the length and width of the state—from the far northern redwoods to the border with Mexico, and from the ocean beaches to the Cascades, Sierra and deserts.

The articles in this issue of *The Catalyst* are all related to our anniversary. You will learn about what is being done to mark the occasion, some tips on what you can do, and a little California State Parks history too.

Because you may not recognize all of the photos on the cover, we are providing a handy Photo Key:



Carolyn Schimandle and Ellen Clark



What's Up?



Resources for Interpreters

Cool Stuff to Do at Your Special Event for the 150th Anniversary

It is not necessary to hold a separate special event to commemorate California State Parks' 150th anniversary. You can add anniversary elements to a regular annual event. Here are some ideas of ways you can bring the state parks sesquicentennial into your event. (We bet you can think of lots more!) Most of these are from the list of "150 Things Staff Can Do to Promote the Commemoration of California State Parks 150th Anniversary in 2014," from Anniversary Tool Kit #1. (See "Dear Master Interpreter" for more information on the Tool Kits.)

Prominently display the 150th exhibit in your Visitor Center when not in use and at all of your special events.

Hang 150th anniversary banners at the park entrance and other key locations.

Use the slideshow in Tool Kit #1 to create your own presentation and present it at a campfire program or special event.

Ask Miles Standish to portray Galen Clark, the first state park ranger. (See Tool Kit #1 for information on how to do this.)

Have docents or staff portray pioneers in the park movement.

Highlight the history of your particular park or district in exhibits and presentations. (Look for photos of your park in the historic photo folder in Tool Kit #1 or Yosemite historic photos in Tool Kit #2.)

Host a 150 kite-flying day.

For OHV parks: highlight the history of the OHMVR division. You can find out more on the State Park 150th anniversary web page on "Origins of OHV Recreation," at

http://www.150.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=27499

Include information on the 150th anniversary in press releases. See Tool Kit #1 for a sample press release.

Hold a "Pub Quiz" style activity on the history of parks/resources in the park.

Cut a celebratory cake with 150 candles.

Present a historical parade with participants in period dress and riding in/on period-appropriate modes of transportation, or a parade of decades with participants representing different periods of history.

Hold a park "150 Years of History" trivia contest in which participants submit completed sheets for a chance in a prize drawing. (Only correctly-completed quizzes will be eligible for the prize drawing.) Prizes can be 150th anniversary pins, patches and stickers.

Play 1864 games.

Hold a park cleanup day and challenge each participant to collect 150 pieces of trash.

Make a park time capsule with 150th commemoration items.

Conduct a local poster contest promoting the 150th.

Dear Master Interpreter

Dear Master Interpreter:

I work in a park that is not very old. How does the 150th anniversary relate to my park?"

-New Kid on the Block

The establishment of the Yosemite Grant in 1864, our state's first state park, began the parks movement. Every state park is part of the legacy of the Yosemite Grant.

Dear Master Interpreter:

Where can I find the 150th Anniversary Tool Kits?

On the Intranet, the link is on the home page; on the N Share Drive, in the Tool Kit file; to order a CD, contact Ingrid van Dijk at 916-654-2249.

Dear Master Interpreter:

How can I get more 150th anniversary banners, bookmarks, brochures and/or posters?

-Getting the Word Out

There are instructions for ordering the banners in Tool Kit #2, in the Media folder. (See question below for more information on the Tool Kits.) Banners must be paid for by outside funding sources, not state funds. Bookmarks are in short supply, and will not be reprinted. Contact Ingrid van Dijk at 916-654-2249 or Ingrid.vanDijk@parks.ca.gov to find out if any more are available. Brochures were sent to each sector in late March. If you have run out, check first with your sector. If there are truly no more left, contact Victoria Yturralde at 916-653-9945 or Victoria.Yturralde@parks.ca.gov.

Dear Master Interpreter:

How can I make the 150th anniversary relevant to children?

-Lots of Little Ones

Relate the 150th anniversary to a very special birthday for state parks. Kids understand birthdays. Use the 150th anniversary Junior Ranger activities (see p. 10 for more information).

Dear Master

Interpreter:

My local county fair contacted me to participate in the fair. They requested that I "do something" for the 150th anniversary. How should I respond to their request?

-Fair's Fair

Fairs' partnerships are important and we want to continue these new relationships into the future. Many parks are hosting fair booths while others are supporting the fairs by assisting in giving out prize ribbons for the California State Parks-inspired competitions. Talk with your supervisor about the best course of action that fits within the parameters of your District staffing levels.

Dear Master Interpreter:

When is the actual birthday of California State Parks?

-Waiting in Anticipation

September 28, 1864. That is the day that Governor Low signed a proclamation accepting the Yosemite Grant for California.

Dear Master Interpreter:

Who can answer my other questions about the 150th anniversary commemoration?

-Just Wondering

Check in the two 150th Anniversary Tool Kits provided to the field. You might find your answer there. If you do not have the Tool Kits, they are available via the Intranet. You can also contact the Interpretation and Education Division at 916-654-2249 or Interpretation.Staff@parks.ca.gov to get a copy on CD, or to ask further questions. The 150th anniversary website is full of valuable information, too.



California Park Training Conference

March 3-6, 2014 – Yosemite Valley

By Mike Lynch

Co-chair, California State Parks 150th Committee



More than 200 participants, presenters and special guests from 30 plus park agencies and two colleges/universities, convened in Yosemite Valley for the 2014 California Parks Training Conference (CPTC) on March 3-6, on the occasion of the 150th Anniversary of California State Parks and the setting aside of Yosemite Valley as a park. The conference program included over 20 different training segments from Bats to OHMVR Outreach Program to Fire Management at Yosemite National Park. The annual Parks Conference is sponsored by the California State Park Rangers Association (CSPRA) and the Park Rangers Association of California (PRAC) and this year was also supported by a wide number of agencies, groups and individuals, including the National Park Service (NPS) and California State Parks (CSP).

In addition to the many distinctive and engaging training sessions, there was a unique memorial ceremony to honor **Galen Clark**, first Yosemite Guardian and California's first state park ranger, on the occasion of his 200th birthday anniversary. The event took place at the Yosemite Cemetery, where Clark is buried, and it featured a surprise visit by Clark himself (channeled by **Miles Standish**). Clark, during the ceremony, recognized his great-great granddaughter **Lita Karlstrand** in the assembled crowd of 80 people and hugged and greeted her mightily. The "Ceremony in the Cemetery" was a joint effort of the Conference and the NPS, who also used the event to highlight the renovation of the historic cemetery and invited other descendants of those buried at the cemetery including Native Americans from the Yosemite region.

At the opening session, Yosemite National Park Superintendent **Don Neubacher** welcomed the group on behalf of the National Park Service. The featured speakers from California State Parks were Chief Deputy Director **Aaron Robertson** and **Ernest Chung**, Chair of the California State Parks and Recreation Commission. Also featured at the opening session was a screening of the brand new **Ken Burns** film "*Yosemite: A Gathering of*

Spirit. "The film chronicles, as only Ken Burns and writer/producer Dayton Duncan can, the setting aside in the 1864 legislation signed by President Abraham Lincoln, of Yosemite Valley as California's first state park and the birthplace of the park movement in the United States, branded by Burns as "America's Best Idea."

In addition to numerous training sessions, many individuals were recognized and honored for their contribution to the heritage of protecting of parks, service to park visitors and/or education and inspiration of the public regarding parks. These recognitions included

Shelton Johnson, NPS Ranger, for his nationally acclaimed program on the Buffalo Soldier (presented at the conference). The Buffalo Soldiers were part of the first army protectors of Yosemite National Park established in 1890.

Robert Peek who received the PRAC lifesaving award.

Mike Gleckler and **Henry Berry** who received the PRAC Medal of Valor award.

Bud Getty, **Kirk Wallace** and **Doug Bryce** who received recognition awards for their 40-plus years each of service to CSP and 50 years of dedication to CSPRA.

Kass Hardy, Yosemite 150th Anniversary Coordinator and **Jeff Ohlfs**, Conference Co-chair & Chief Ranger at Joshua Tree National Park, were presented special contribution awards by State Parks 150th Anniversary Committee Co-chair **Donna Pozzi**.

Janet Carle, **Jeff Price** and **Nina Gordon** received CSPRA special contribution awards honoring them for their outstanding contributions to the CSPRA 50th Anniversary, which is being celebrated this year.



Galen Clark portrayed by **Miles Standish**, **Yosemite Buffalo Soldier** by **Shelton Johnson** & **1930s Park Warden** by **Scott Liske**.

The finale of the conference was the banquet in the fabulous dining hall of the Ahwahnee Hotel, one of the finest of National Park Lodges in the US. California State Parks Director **Major General Anthony L. Jackson**, USMC (Ret.) was the featured speaker. Director Jackson gave an inspirational presentation on the value of parks, past, current and into the future, and praised the efforts of the 200 park professionals from 30 agencies and special guests as the representatives of the many stewards of our local, regional, state and national parks in California.

At the banquet, there was a ceremonial awarding of a custom wooden dual CSP/Yosemite logo sign presented to the National Park Service by California State parks in recognition of the extensive partnership and close cooperation of the two agencies for the 150th Anniversary of their shared heritage at Yosemite.

Jeff Ohlfs and Mike Lynch, Co-chairs of the Conference, were widely praised on the organization of the conference variously described as, "The best conference I've ever attended!" (Carl Chavez, retired state park regional director) and "The best organized annual conference ever!" (Raleigh Young, Founder and past president of the Park Rangers Association of California).



California Parks Training Conference
March 3-6, 2014 - Yosemite National Park

History Captured in Bronze: the 150th Legacy Landmarks Project

By Diane Barclay
Staff Services Analyst
Office of Historic Preservation

Whenever staff at the Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) posts California Historical Landmarks news on the office's website or Facebook page, the response is immediate and positive. Similarly, when landmark nominations are being considered by the State Historical Resources Commission, public response is almost always enthusiastic. Californians love their historical landmarks! So, when the OHP looked for a way to participate in State Parks' 150th Anniversary Commemoration, the California Historical Landmarks Program seemed the obvious choice. We chose the landmarks program not only for its strong public appeal and connection, but also, as Jenan Saunders, Deputy SHPO explains, "we wanted something that would live on beyond this commemorative year, something that genuinely would constitute a 150th legacy project." Furthermore, California Historical Landmarks have been intertwined with California State Parks since the early days of the Landmarks program. Landmark #1, designated in 1932, is the Custom House in Monterey State Historic Park.



The new Mountain Quarries Railroad Bridge California Historical Landmark Plaque was dedicated March 23, 2014. The 102-year-old bridge is in Auburn State Recreation Area.

California State Parks arguably contains more California Historical Landmarks than any other single entity. That is not surprising, considering that a central focus of both State Parks and the Landmarks Program is to preserve, and tell the stories of, places and resources that had an impact on the history of the state. Organized efforts to landmark important sites and resources in California go back as far as 1895 with the formation of citizen-run programs. Legislation, enacted in 1931, established an official statewide landmark program. By 1949 the governor-appointed California Historical Landmarks Advisory Committee (known today as the State Historical Resources Commission) was in place, and tasked with establishing registration criteria that would give structure and credibility to the program. Today, a resource must meet at least one of the criteria to receive Landmark eligibility:

The resource must be the first, last, only, or most significant of its type in the state or within a large geographical region (Northern, Central, or Southern California); or,

The resource must be associated with an individual or group having a profound influence on the history of California; or,

It must be a prototype of, or an outstanding example of a period, style, architectural movement or construction, or is one of the more notable works or the best surviving work in a region of a pioneer architect, designer or master builder.

For the 150th Legacy Landmarks Project, the Office of Historic Preservation is sponsoring approximately twelve new, or replacement, California Historical Landmark plaques for landmarks located in State Parks throughout California. The OHP is funding the project using federal grant funds, with matching funds from the Native Sons of the Golden West, for all but a few of the new plaques. The California State Parks Foundation will coordinate distribution of the funds. All of the plaques will be unveiled this year, and will include text that identifies them as part of the 150th Anniversary Commemoration. Some of the legacy plaques are for newly designated landmarks, such as the Crystal Cove Historic District in Crystal Cove State Park. The rest are for previously designated landmarks that do not yet have plaques, or need plaques replaced or updated, such as the Ide Adobe in William B. Ide Adobe State Historic Park.

New plaques at parks such as Olompali SHP, Carnegie SVRA, William B. Ide Adobe SHP, and other Legacy Landmark sites, offer the chance to better reflect the history and stories of these sites as they are understood today.

The Ide Adobe plaque highlights another positive aspect of the 150th Legacy Landmarks Project: the opportunity to update earlier historical accounts that may be incomplete or inaccurate. California Historical Landmark plaques are themselves historic; they capture, in tangible form, the language and perceptions of history as they were understood at the time a plaque was erected. Over time, as new knowledge is uncovered, the way history is understood and told changes accordingly, resulting in some landmark plaques now representing a misinterpreted past. Through the 150th Legacy Landmarks Project, new plaques at parks such as Olompali SHP, Carnegie SVRA, William B. Ide Adobe SHP, and other Legacy Landmark sites, offer the chance to better reflect the history and stories of these sites as they are understood today.

There are more than 1,000 California Historical Landmarks, and many of them are right there in the parks where you work. We encourage you to seek out these visible reminders of the places, people, and history that make California and its state parks special.



The adobe house at William B. Ide Adobe State Historic Park, California Historical Landmark No. 12, will have an updated plaque.

Special Junior Ranger 150th Activities

By Carolyn Schimandle
State Park Interpreter III
Interpretation and Education Division



Junior Ranger at Carpinteria SB

The 150th anniversary excitement is ready to spread to Junior Rangers! To commemorate the 150th anniversary, a team of state park interpreters has created a series of special Junior Ranger sample programs. Team members were Ellen Clark, Carolyn Schimandle, Rosanna Petralia, Richard Muñoz, and Sara Skinner.

The sample programs highlight the heritage of California State Parks and its mission. There are eleven sample programs, one for each Junior Ranger study segment area except California Indians. The study areas are Animal Life, Ecology, Energy, Geology, History, Park Careers, Plant Life, Recycling, Safety and Survival, Water, and Weather and Climate. (A California Indians program was not included because some California Indians view the creation of the Yosemite Grant as a destructive event to their culture and people.)

Each sample program includes a suggested hands-on activity. Some include images to share with the Junior Rangers. The sample programs are part of toolkit #2. You can use them as-is, or modify them to fit your imagination and your park.

By the way, the Junior Ranger program is 41 this year! It was inspired by the national parks Junior Ranger program. A few state parks gave programs on a trial basis in the early 1970s. The official statewide program started in 1973. The logbook was added in 1991. Two years later came the first edition of the current handbook. In 1998, a grant from the Department of Conservation funded a new unit—Recycling.

The program was totally revamped starting in 2000. A Junior Ranger Advisory Committee started meeting, and the field distributed surveys to Junior Rangers receiving awards to get their input on activities and incentives. The committee initiated major changes in the materials and how programs were conducted, and added the self-guided "Adventure Guide." They also set up a new award structure, including a nice badge to replace the buttons that had previously been used, and the Junior Rangers program got a new logo.

Thanks to a grant from the T.J. Long Foundation, the materials were again updated in 2005-2006. The logbook was redesigned, handbook updated, and the Adventure Guide translated into Spanish. The third edition of the handbook came out in 2011.

Junior Rangers reaches many children: according to CAMP data, over 25,000 children took part in Junior Rangers last year, in 74 parks.

Inspiring Generations for 150 Years: Yosemite Grant Act 1864-2014

By Kass Hardy
National Park Service Ranger
Yosemite 150th Anniversary Coordinator

Yosemite has inspired generations of people for thousands of years. On June 30, 1864, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Yosemite Grant Act, establishing Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove as the first protected wild land for all time. In addition, this grant marked the first California State Park.

The State of California obtained the Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Big Trees Grove Grant in 1864 due to the efforts of prominent individuals such as Reverend Thomas Starr King, Mrs. Jessie Benton Frémont, Captain Israel Ward Raymond and California Senator John Conness. They inspired the concept and conceived the seminal legislation that permanently set aside this wondrous place "for public use, resort and recreation."

When Senator Conness presented the bill for consideration in the Senate on May 17, 1864, he noted that the bill's unprecedented objective was entrusting the State with the "preservation and public viewing of the Yosemite Valley and the Big Tree Grove... for the benefit of mankind." Unopposed, the bill breezed through the 38th Congress and was signed by President Abraham Lincoln June 30, 1864.

On September 28, 1864, California Governor Frederick Low signed the Proclamation accepting the Mariposa Grove and Yosemite Valley Grant from the federal government and appointed the first state park commission to oversee its preservation and improvement.

Heading the nine-person commission was Frederick Law Olmsted, pioneering designer of New York City's Central Park. Galen Clark, Israel Ward Raymond and Professor J.D. Whitney were among the other eminent men of California named to the first commission.

Visionary Americans like Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, John Muir, and Galen Clark understood that the wonders of the American wilderness are not only our inheritance, but also our responsibility. Now, 150 years later, the promise of the Yosemite Grant endures as this beloved national park opens its arms to over four million people annually who marvel at the awe-inspiring beauty and gain a new understanding of the importance of preserving our wild lands.

150th Activities

Yosemite's partners and friends are helping the park honor the 150th anniversary of the Yosemite Grant Act, the landmark bill signed by Abraham Lincoln that became the genesis for our national park system. Do not miss the fun—check out the anniversary activity calendar, or pick up a paper copy in a community visitor center, at any of the community events, or in the park. We hope to see you at one or more activities over the coming months: www.nps.gov/yose/anniversary.



INSPIRING GENERATIONS

Online Quilt Show!

By Ellen Clark
Statewide Volunteer Coordinator
Interpretation and Education Division

Marcy Brown
Staff Services Manager II (Sup)
Budget Section



**Pigeon Point Light Station by quilter
Barbara Blake**

The concept of the 150th anniversary online quilt show started in 2013 with the Quilters' Sew-Ciety of Redding, but has grown to over 100 quilts from all over the state and many other quilt guilds because when you ask quilters to create a beautiful work of art, they jump at the chance! Now let us go back to the beginning.

Fresh off a highly successful "River of Quilts" quilt challenge in early 2013, the Sew-Ciety began brainstorming their next challenge effort. As an avid quilter, former park ranger and passionate outdoorswoman, Cris Rohn Hartman saw a perfect match between parks and quilting.

Realizing that the 150th Anniversary of California State Parks would be in 2014, Hartman successfully pitched the anniversary as the focus for the Sew-Ciety's 2014 quilting challenge. Energized by Sew-Ciety's enthusiasm, Hartman quickly realized that there was a much larger untapped opportunity to commemorate the 150th Anniversary through quilts.

With her contagious enthusiasm, Hartman approached Donna Pozzi, Parks' Chief of Interpretation and co-chair of the 150th Anniversary Committee, about a statewide quilting effort to honor the 150th Anniversary. Pozzi quickly agreed and recruited Marcy

Brown from the Budgets Office (as a volunteer) to help organize a live quilt show.

Understanding that we would be recruiting quilters from all over the state, after several months of researching the logistics of a large physical show, Pozzi, Hartman and Brown realized the prohibitive cost and daunting logistics associated with a large live show. Changing tacks, they realized that an online quilt show would provide a perfect forum for display.



**Riparian Brush Rabbit
at Caswell Memorial
State Park by quilter
Sue Redhead**

Coordinating with the California State Parks Anniversary Committee, Hartman and her co-coordinator Patti Aberg worked to organize 57 quilts that their guild members produced as the official quilts for the anniversary. The quilts represent a wide cross-section of state parks, including state vehicular recreation areas, grasslands, poppy preserves and state beaches. The online show is just the beginning, because the 57 official anniversary quilts have been booked to be shown at various locations over the next two years, including museums, fairs, state parks, galleries and large quilt shows. A calendar for the Sew-Ciety quilt exhibit can be found at <http://www.quilterssewciety.org/> or visit Leland Stanford Mansion State Historic Park in September 2014, for the Sew-Ciety's live quilt show, "Celebrating Parks through Quilts-150 Years."

Online Quilt Show Update

Outreach efforts to nearly 200 quilt guilds throughout California and through a "Call for Quilters" on the 150th anniversary website: www.150.parks.ca.gov has produced another 60+ quilts for the online show. They are all spectacular. Our goal is to post 150 quilts for 150 years and your talents can help us reach that goal.

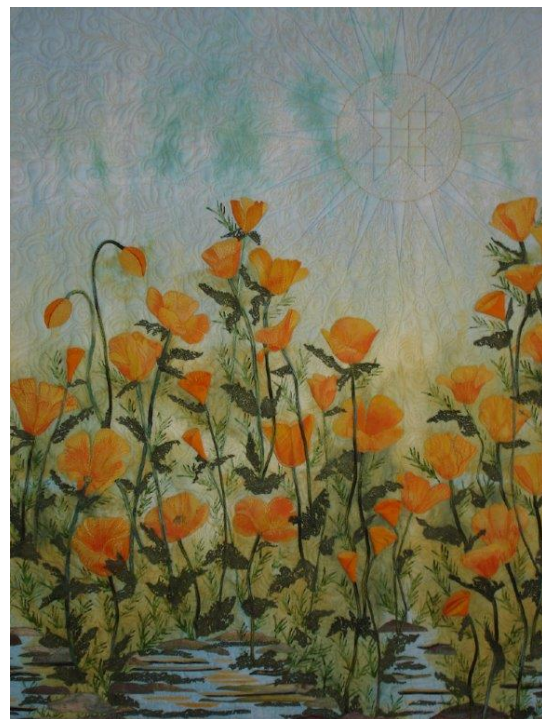
WHAT TO DO: Create your own quilt, inspired by a state park or parks. Sign up now by emailing 150th@parks.ca.gov with the word "Quilt" in the subject line. Be sure to include your name, contact information with email address, and the park that inspires you to create your quilt. Upon completion of your quilt, submit a photograph of your work for inclusion in our online quilt show.

WHEN: To be included in the online show, you must submit your photo and other materials by September 12, 2014.

We have a great start with the gallery of these astoundingly beautiful works of art, and we look forward to reaching our goal of 150 quilts for 150 years!



**Humboldt Redwoods State Park by
quilter Barbara Confer**



**Antelope Valley California Poppy
Reserve by quilter Paula Beck**

"Preserving Yosemite:" Re-Examining the Origins of America's Best Idea

By James Newland
Supervising Historian
Resources & Interpretive Sections Manager
Southern Service Center

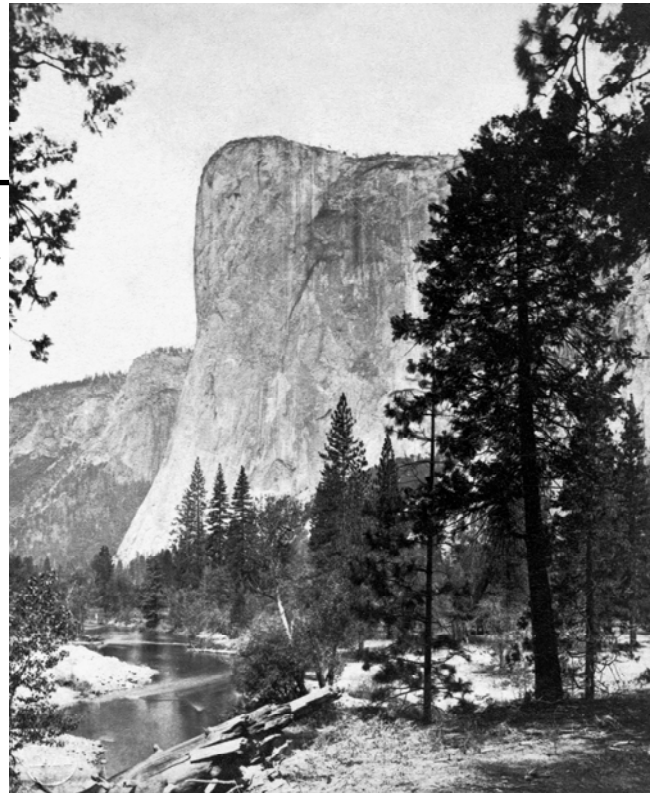
The Yosemite Grant

On June 30th, 1864 President Abraham Lincoln signed some thirty bills into law.

One, a fairly uncomplicated and apparently non-controversial act, "authorized a grant to the State of California of the Yosemite Valley and the land embracing the Mariposa Big Tree Grove."

What made this uncommon Federal land grant even more unique, and groundbreaking, was the concept or "idea" that defined it. The idea that today's state and national parks hold fundamental:

"...that the premises shall be held for public use, resort and recreation; shall be inalienable for all time..." [emphasis added]



Historians define this legislation as the seminal act of any government to preserve natural places for public recreational use.

It is the origins of what evolved into today's National Park (est. 1916), and our California State Park (est. 1928) systems—the same concept of public-owned, resource-based preserves that would spread worldwide.

150th Anniversary Opportunity

So as we (along with our Yosemite NP colleagues) formally commemorate this landmark act's sesquicentennial, we are provided with an opportunity for re-examination.

Fully understanding this precedent-setting action is especially relevant as we communicate this shared park heritage with our visitors, constituents, supporters, and sometimes critics. Perhaps that is partially why Director Jackson asked me last year to look into the act, and the role of the most prominent individual associated with this legislation—President Abraham Lincoln. It seems a logical question to ask. Lincoln's involvement provides an unparalleled vehicle (for example, see his signature in the Yosemite NP 150th logo) in introducing perceived historic context, significance, and credibility about our origins to the public.

Lincoln's Role?

From previous research I was bit skeptical (as was the Director) of Lincoln's full role. The spring and summer of 1864 were a low point in his presidency—to put it simply—he was preoccupied with the Civil War and his then very uncertain re-election.

However, the opportunity to dig into the historiography of Lincoln, the most written about man in U.S. history, was intriguing. Perhaps in all of the writings from, of, and about Lincoln there would be an overlooked reference to Yosemite and/or this piece of legislation—and/or his thoughts about preserving public lands.

In summary (my full study is scheduled for journal publication), the basic findings are that although there is some impressive new scholarship, still no primary or secondary sources document Lincoln writing or speaking of Yosemite or the legislation. This generally explains why, in most respected histories of Yosemite and the Grant, Lincoln's lone role is signing the bill (see select bibliography in the 150th Tool Kit #2).

This is not to conclude that he wasn't aware. Third-party evidence indicates that Lincoln knew Yosemite and the "Big Trees" existed. Published articles and photographs were readily available in the eastern states (such photos being shared with Lincoln are surmised, but speculative). In addition, Lincoln and his administration were very supportive of California and the West. California, in turn, supported the Lincoln Administration and the War; economically, politically and symbolically.

So, although there is no evidence of Lincoln's direct support for the grant, it would seem unlikely he would have had significant issues with it—especially since we know he did sign it.

Conclusion and "Important Take-Aways"

Abraham Lincoln's minimal role in the conception and development of the Yosemite Grant does not take away from the legislation's historical significance—or his value as an interpretive character in the overall story.

But as with any historical event/topic, we as historians and interpreters need to be careful not to be "seduced" by the presence of monumental characters such as Lincoln. We must not assume or imbue him, or others, with actions and roles that are beyond documentation.

Circumstantial evidence, and there is quite a bit that has been used in the documentation of the Grant's history (not just Lincoln's role, but other prominent individuals as well), still requires verifiable documentation.

In the end, Lincoln did play an essential part, but the documentable response to his role is safely answered with, "He Signed It."

Thank goodness he did.

The Yosemite Grant is indeed recognized as the seminal step in what evolved into, as noted western writer Wallace Stegner wrote of the National Parks, "the best idea America's ever had"—and perhaps we all can selfishly conclude is still "California's Best Idea."

Jim's forthcoming journal article will more fully uncover the documentable actions and motivations of the legislation's protagonists such as businessman Israel Ward Raymond and California Sen. John Conness, along with the assumed other "eminent gentlemen of California" that purportedly conceived the idea. He will also introduce some of the prominent promoters and supporters of the Yosemite Grant (such as James Mason Hutchings, Thomas Starr King, Horace Greeley, Jessie Benton Frémont, Carleton Watkins, Josiah Whitney, George Coulter, Galen Clark and Frederick Law Olmsted) who are often credited with, sometimes correctly, and sometimes not, with important ancillary roles in the Grant's establishment.

Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division Outreach and Education Program

By Natalie Lohi

Supervising State Park Ranger and Program Manager
Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division



As we commemorate 150 years of California State Parks, the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division oversees a robust and intensive statewide outreach program. By its simplest definition, public outreach is the practice of conducting awareness activities through targeted community interaction. Our outreach program incorporates a dedicated team of professionals throughout the state that includes interpreters, rangers, seasonal park aides, volunteers, state and federal agencies, and non-profit partners.

In 2013, the Division outreach team educated 10,500 people throughout the state. In the first six months of 2014 we have already reached 14,200. We are on track to easily reach 20,000, doubling our numbers from 2013. Last year, we were tasked with increasing our visibility, winning back the public trust and promoting the 150th anniversary of California State Parks. Clearly, we were up to the challenge!

The Division Outreach Program was developed to support all six goals of the OHMVR Strategic Plan, but specifically addresses Goal 4, which is to develop an informed and educated community. We accomplish this goal by utilizing various methods of education and interpretation, hands-on safety training, and targeted social media messaging. Education and interpretation are accomplished using non-personal and personal interaction. Non-personal methods include displays, informational kiosks, interpretive panels, printed materials, and media. Personal methods include face-to-face interactions at our parks, in schools, at outreach events such as trade shows and county fairs and other community gatherings such as enthusiast clubs and homeowner association meetings.

We utilize a wide variety of interpretive tools both traditional and innovative. Some of our favorites include our tried and true Wildlife Discovery Center where kids can get hands-on with skulls, scat, and pelts of local wildlife. They learn about the diets,

behaviors, and habitats of these animals as well as identification methods. On the other end of the spectrum is the All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Safety Computer Game. This touchscreen, interactive computer game allows children to choose from four different interactive games, each teaching a lesson about safety and/or responsible recreation. One of our most popular tools is the Tread Lightly® Remote Car Course. Children (and adults) are led along a trail where they are taught to stay on the trail, slow down near animals and campgrounds, stop and pick up litter, and more.

Hands-on safety training is part of the OHMVR Outreach and Education Program. We have contracted with the Specialty Vehicle Institute of America to provide off-highway vehicle safety training for the public. Through the contract, State Parks employees and volunteers are trained as instructors and can then provide free ATV training classes for the public at our State Vehicular Recreation Areas (SVRAs). Dirt bike and recreational off-highway vehicle training can be provided free or at a reduced cost with financial assistance from individual SVRA cooperating associations. Every class incorporates the

Tread Lightly® principles, teaching each student the importance of responsible recreation.

Another powerful tool for outreach and education is social media. This rapidly growing form of communication spans many cultures and age groups. Recognizing the massive potential for targeted and broad-scope messaging, the Division designated its first-ever Social Media Coordinator last year. This individual coordinates and assists with social media campaigns at each SVRA, providing guidance, training, and technical assistance. This person is also responsible for tracking statistics, data, and trends, as well as reporting issues of concern. Visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CASateParksOHV.

Future plans include a continued increase and diversification of outreach venues and methods. We will continue to promote the California State Parks 150th anniversary commemoration at the state and county fairs and all other venues we attend. We will cultivate existing—and develop new—partnerships. We are proud of the OHMVR Education & Outreach Program. The definition of outreach is to “exceed beyond a limit” and we will continue to do just that.



The "I Love You California Bear" Project

By Jennifer Dandurand
State Park Interpreter I
and the Los Angeles Sector Interpretive Team

New photo project uses social media to expand the online community of people who enjoy, care for, protect, and celebrate the natural and cultural resources of California.

Have you heard? The I Love You CA Bear family is on the adventure of their lifetime...and they need your help! In honor of the 150th anniversary, (paper) bears are going on pictorial adventures exploring the natural and cultural resources of California. You can participate by taking a bear on a tour around your park/office, encouraging the public to print out and adventure with their own bear, and by following the family's journey on their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/iloveyouCAbear.



Image courtesy of the California Room, California State Library, Sacramento

The goals of this project are:

- 1) to connect the public to their state parks in a unique, creative, and participatory way;
- 2) to visually introduce the public to a variety of public resources, experiences, careers, and opportunities that we offer across the state, inspiring them to visit for themselves; and
- 3) to build our Department's online presence.

You can locate your local bear, or print your own off the Facebook page profile picture or website www.parks.ca.gov/iloveyoucabear. Once you have a member of the family, we encourage you to take pictures of the bears exploring State Parks' diverse resources, experiencing park activities, and observing some State Park careers. We are trying to encourage the public to connect with parks, so be creative, and give the bears a beary fun adventure!



Molly, the Monterey Bear, visited Point Lobos SNR and docent Norma.

Post your bears' pictures directly onto the I love you CA Bear Facebook page (we recommend that as employees, you post the pictures using your park's official Facebook profile). Encourage the public to post onto the I Love You CA Bear Facebook page, too! If you or your park doesn't use or have access to Facebook, email your pictures and a short explanation to kristen.perry@parks.ca.gov or jennifer.dandurand@parks.ca.gov, and we'll post it for you. Just remember that any pictures with people's faces shown which are posted OR shared by a state park page must be either of employees or have an accompanying media release.

We're excited to see how adventuresome these bears get! Remember, they can only be as adventurous as you let them.

Follow them: www.facebook.com/iloveyouCABear. And use #iloveyouCABear on social media sites.



Checkin' out the two-story Garnier Building at Los Encinos SHP



The Angeles Bear posing with General Jackson and Kristen Perry in the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook Visitor Center



Cap the Capital Bear waiting for a ticket for the Sacramento Southern Railroad in Old Sacramento SHP

Connecting Yosemite with Our Nation's History

By Pat Clark-Gray
Regional Interpretive Specialist
Monterey District

I was fortunate to attend the National Council for Public History conference held in Monterey. I attended the "Protecting' Yosemite 150 Years Ago: Re-examining the Origins of 'America's Best Idea'" session that featured four panelists. With each presentation, I learned interesting facts that will help me better explain to the public the historical context for our 150th Anniversary commemoration.



James Mason Hutchings

The first presentation was by Jen Huntley, author of *The Making of Yosemite: James Mason Hutchings and the Origins of America's Most Popular National Park*. Her main point was she had a more balanced opinion of James Hutchings than his reputation as the "poster

boy" for commercial opportunists of parks. She noted that most thought of John Muir as the hero and Hutchings as the anti-hero. Hutchings was raised in England and came to California during the Gold Rush. He loved Yosemite and wished to live there, believing he had a preemption claim to property in the Valley where he ran a hotel. Hutchings and Muir's relationship began when Hutchings hired Muir to operate his saw mill and help build up the hotel. They had a complex relationship, with rumors of Muir and Hutchings' much younger wife, perhaps being too close. Yet, considering their differences, they both were founding members of the Sierra Club.

Hutchings was a major promoter of Yosemite. In the summer of 1855, Hutchings first visited Yosemite. After leaving the valley, he stopped by the office of the nearby *Mariposa Gazette* to write one of the first published accounts of Yosemite. He turned artist

Thomas A. Ayres's sandpaper sketches into two large-scale lithographs. In her book, Jen Huntley used this quote from Hutchings that I liked: "the Yo-Semite Valley, at that time, was as a sealed book to the general public, . . . it was our good fortune to be instrumental in opening its sublime pages to the public eye, that it might be 'known and read of all men.'" Hutchings started a publishing company in San Francisco and produced stories and images of the guided trips to Yosemite and California. His *Hutchings' California Magazine* was published monthly between 1856 and 1861 and there was an average of seven illustrations per magazine highlighting articles on California tourist destinations and flora and fauna.

John Muir looked at Yosemite as wilderness, a place of natural beauty and rejuvenating power to be protected and preserved for those values. He decried that such places should be commercialized and became the most noted voice for preservation of our special natural places such as Yosemite. So after hearing Ms. Huntley's presentation, I agree that John Muir has been viewed more favorably than James Hutchings and so when we interpret them we should provide a fair representation about both.

The next presenter was Glenna Matthews, who talked about Rev. Thomas Starr King, one of California's most important but often forgotten cultural leaders. I was most fascinated by her talk because I did not know much about Thomas Starr King and wanted to learn all about him. At the young age of 21 he had his own pulpit. He then did the Unitarian circuit and traveled from Boston throughout the eastern U.S. as a noted speaker. His book on the natural beauty of the White Mountains of Vermont is recognized as a classic—and made him even more popular. In 1859 he came to work at the Unitarian Church in San Francisco, bringing outstanding credentials as a "cultural authority."

When he wrote about California, people paid attention. His articles on Yosemite were published widely back east and he got photos of Yosemite to other notable men such as Oliver Wendell Holmes. Due to his tragic death in February 1864, Starr King currently does not get the attention of other historic people connected to Yosemite. Ms. Matthews stated in her talk: "We should care about this and this should be interpreted at Yosemite."

I encourage you to read her book *The Golden State in the Civil War: Thomas Starr King, the Republican Party, and the Birth of Modern California* to learn more about this significant early California personality. In her book she focuses on the Civil War as accelerating California's integration into the



Thomas Starr King

federal union and presents Thomas Starr King as the central figure in helping raise funds and support from California for the Union cause. Starr King's significance to California is so important that his statue was used to represent California at the U.S. Capitol from 1931 to 2009.

The next presenter was our own Jim Newland, supervising historian at the Southern Service Center. He spoke on the role of Abraham Lincoln in the Grant. See his article in this edition of *The Catalyst*.

The last presenter was the renowned Environmental Historian Alfred Runte, author of many books. Runte is author of *Yosemite: The Embattled Wilderness*, one of the most respected histories of the park. Another of his important books is *National Parks: The American Experience*. His main focus was that our American culture was what made great ideas happen and that the National Park idea started with Yosemite. Later, 187 countries copied the park idea and this has resulted in saving 12 percent of the planet from development.

In his book he writes:

Overcoming the spread of industry and the growth of population, only parks allow nature some measure of permanence. Without preservation that is legally as well as morally binding, the land would have no future. Certainly, as the first claimants to the floor of Yosemite Valley, James Mason Hutchings and James Lamon did not see beyond their lives. Only when the promise of restraint is backed by permanence does it elevate into a public good. Government is that permanence.

I agree with Runte's statement: "It is said that the national parks are our best idea - that their idealism defines America." I encourage you to read all the books that I have listed to get a more complete history of Yosemite and the park movement. This new knowledge will help you better interpret major themes of the 150th Anniversary commemoration.



State Parks through the Eyes of a Child

By Antoinette Steiner
Staff Services Analyst
Park Operations

As we commemorate California State Parks' 150th Anniversary, we are also provided with an opportunity for reflection. It is a time for looking back at the vision and dedication of the founders and pioneers. We are reminded that even in the midst of death and destruction brought about by the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln still possessed the foresight for understanding the importance of setting aside public lands for protection and enjoyment. By signing the Yosemite Valley Grant Act, which passed on June 30, 1864, he launched the birth of the first public park in the nation. Thus he paved the way for the creation of state parks, preserves, and historical monuments we cherish today.

As I reflect, I am reminiscent of many fond childhood memories spent camping, fishing, boating, and hiking. As a child, there was no sweeter sight than to see your parents pick you up from school with the family R.V. in tow. You just knew it was going to be a great weekend. I remember learning how to fish from the banks of the lake, on my very own closed-face Zebco reel. My parents use to tell us kids: "the one who catches the biggest fish doesn't have to wash the dishes." Little did we know that it was code for, catch a lot of fish so we could have a fish fry and take some home. That evening, we all enjoyed the fruits of our labor with mom serving dinner on paper plates. Just as I have enjoyed camping as a child, I now carry on the same tradition with my own child.

Every time I take my child for a nature hike through the woods, she re-opens my eyes to the natural treasures of the world we live in. I love hiking with



her. She sees things in ways I have forgotten, and in ways that can only be seen through the eyes of a child. As we gear up for the end of school, and make our plans for our traditional camping trips, I asked my 9-year-old child to make a list of the top ten things she likes most about camping. Her list included the following: 1) making smores, 2) collecting firewood* (to roast marshmallows and make smores), 3) eating outside, 4) nature walks, 5) swimming in the lake, 6) driving the boat, 7) fishing, 8) collecting rocks from every excursion to remind her of each adventure,* 9) sleeping in the tent while looking up at the stars, and 10) no monsters under the bed or in the closet.

Summer is a time for kids. Kids and Parks go together just like peanut butter and jelly. In fact many family traditions are created when making their annual trek to their favorite campground over Memorial Day weekend. When children connect with Parks, whether it is through their family vacations or through their schools, you open the door to the world of imagination and endless possibilities. When was the last time you went to the beach and built a sand castle? Walked

through the forest and into the "Valley of the Giants," or walked along the beach looking for clams? How about playing hide and seek while camping? Helped Girl Scouts to earn their hiking badge? Visited a museum with a child? Chaperoned a class field trip to Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park? There is nothing more special than seeing our parks through the eyes of a child. When you teach a child to camp, it promotes creativity and independence. When you take a child on a nature hike, you provide her with the ability to escape the everyday pressures of life and school, and the ability to replenish herself. When you teach children how to camp, you teach them respect for their environment, while encouraging them to exercise. When children are raised to experience our State Parks, the children are experiencing Mother Nature's classroom.

Childhood experiences affect us forever. When you give the gift of the parks to your children, you are also making an investment in our future and our parks. Junior Lifeguards become adult lifeguards and Junior Rangers become State Park Rangers. Children who appreciate our parks become the future caretakers of our parks. When you give the gift of the parks to your child, you also awaken the child within you. State Parks, it is a gift to be given and our legacy.



* While we wouldn't collect firewood and rocks in California state parks, it is okay in most National Forests.

An Unforgettable Dixon May Fair Experience

By Samantha Toffoli
Associate Park and Recreation Specialist
Marin District

The Dixon May Fair state parks exhibit was a huge hit and is an example of how partners can work together for a great outcome. Fair folks were generous in providing us with 2,200 square feet of exhibit space to commemorate State Park's 150th. When I met Fair CEO Pat Conklin and saw the space, however, I started to panic. How was this going to work?

I was pleasantly surprised to find out that Pat was an exhibit designer in another life. Once we began planning—which was about three weeks in advance of the Fair's opening—we came up with a solid vision of how the space would be used. I decided to borrow bits of Angel Island's Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights (COBR) program to provide a child-friendly space, and the Interpretation and Education's 150th Toolkit came in handy. I used its materials, mostly photographic images, to help Fair visitors generate fond memories of family outings to "their park." I then drew up a rough floor plan.

Pat was game for any type of challenge and did most of the "heavy lifting." She and her family designed trees, fish, clouds and other fun décor, and hung it all on the walls. She rolled in prize-winning "Cabin in the Woods" vignettes to fill some empty space and then came the boat, fake rocks, benches and picnic tables. I drove over two Prius' worth of stuff to add to the mix including photos, camping equipment, camp chairs and an array of interpretive props.

When opening day rolled around, we were ready to have fun. We sang campfire songs, talked about the good-old-days, passed out 150th stickers and history brochures, and answered questions about anything and everything. We even got a few good games of Frisbee going. Some fair-goers just came in to "chill" because our space was so cool. All kids entering the exhibit played and learned—even the teenagers! I printed a number of photos: both historic found in our Toolkit, and modern shots from the Marin/DVD collection.



State Parks' Fair space before exhibits



State Parks' Fair space after exhibits!

The photos were hung on the walls and on wooden kiosks provided by Pat. Albeit rough, we used my plan of the space so everyone understood "the vision."

I did my best to stick to our vision but discovered that there was not enough staff for all of the COBR activity stations. We brainstormed and decided to have one table dedicated to COBR/hands-on activities that required staff guidance. I then put together a map station and a touch table (that could be supervised from afar) loaded with maps, rubber scat, animal puppets, skins, and handouts about "Leave-No-Trace," Junior Rangers/Litter Getters and other activities. I was surprised to find that almost everyone was drawn to the map table. Many wanted to know where they had been; others wanted to know where to go next! With help we constructed a funny little campfire center in the middle of the room and when people got a little too quiet I would sit at the campfire and start singing. Without fail, everyone in the room would join me. The campfire center was well loved by all as a place to sit and hang out, to sing, or to pretend to roast marshmallows.

The people coming through the exhibit went out of their way to express how much they loved State Parks. I heard very few comments about "the missing millions" or complaints about reserving campsites. I was deluged with questions about passes—especially those for seniors, active duty enlisted and veterans. Everyone wants to go to State Parks.

Fairgoers eagerly shared fond memories about their favorite park. I am very grateful to work for the department for so many reasons. We get to share our passion for parks with others. We do this while looking great in our park uniforms—complete with 150th pins. The County Fair CEOs and staff are very willing to work with us in whatever capacity. They are creative and flexible, and just as overwhelmed as we are when it comes to partnering. Together we can connect with so many people—and we did.

Special Thanks to: Danita Rodriguez, Karen Barrett, Richard Barry, Buddy Bear, Casey Dexter-Lee, Ben Fenkell, Robin Joseph, Jill Miller, Jeff Patterson, and Roberto Walton for offering to drive out to Dixon and staff the exhibit. An Extra Special Thank You to Fair CEO Pat Conklin, and family, for all of her expertise and enthusiasm!



Around the Campfire



"We did it!"
Marin District's Samantha Toffoli
and Superintendent Danita Rodriguez

California State Parks Interpretation: the First Hundred Years

By Carolyn Schimandle
State Park Interpreter III
Interpretation and Education Division

As the story of California State Parks starts with Yosemite, so does park interpretation. Galen Clark, the first Guardian (a position akin to ranger), also guided visitors. He continued guiding after retiring as Guardian. James Mason Hutchings wrote that from the Guardian

... can be obtained information, not only concerning the rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Commissioners, for the management of the Valley in the interests of the public; but the best places to camp, the points most noteworthy to see, and the best time and manner of seeing them, with answers to every reasonable question intelligent persons may ask concerning this wonderful spot. In short he will, to the best of his ability, be the living embodiment of a cyclopedia of Yo-Semite; and that politely, cheerily, and pleasantly.

Hutchings was also an early Yosemite provider of personal interpretation. He "entertained his guests by lectures on the geology of the region and by conducting them on tours" during his years as a Yosemite hotelier, ending in 1874.

John Muir is credited with initiating the use of the word "interpretation" in 1871 when he wrote, "I'll interpret the rocks, learn the language of flood, storm and the avalanche. I'll acquaint myself with the glaciers and wild gardens, and get as near the heart of the world as I can." Some fortunate visitors to Yosemite in its California-run years received personal interpretation from Muir.

In 1902, California Redwood Park (now Big Basin Redwoods State Park) was created largely due to the initiative of artist Andrew Hill. Hill stayed on at the park to paint and photograph the redwoods, and to tell visitors about them. This was the beginning of interpretation at Big Basin, now the oldest California park classified as a State Park. (Some of the State Historic Parks are older.)

Big Basin was also the site of the first state-run interpretive program in any of the state parks, established by the California Fish and Game Commission in 1926. The guides presented daytime field trips and evening lectures on fish and game conservation. They worked without immediate supervision until Rodney Ellsworth was hired in 1929. The Department of Fish and Game had to stop paying Ellsworth, due to financial constraints, in 1932. But he stayed on as a volunteer, splitting the cost with one of the concessionaires. Two years later, the Division of Parks took over the nature guiding program. Ellsworth continued working at Big Basin for more than ten seasons.

During the early 1930s, other programs started with guides employed by outside groups: Save-the-Redwoods League at Richardson Grove, the Carnegie Institute at Point Lobos State Reserve, and the Garden Club of America at Humboldt Redwoods State Park.

The start of California Civil Service in 1936 brought about the creation of the State Park Nature Guide position. The first three seasonal guides were assigned to Point Lobos State Reserve, Big Basin Redwoods and Richardson Grove. In 1938, the Division of Parks hired the first full-time permanent nature guide—Earl Hanson, who had been the first state-funded guide at Richardson Grove. His duties were to guide in one of the parks during the summer and prepare publications during the rest of the year. In 1940 Hanson became the first General Supervisor of the education program.



Unidentified park naturalist at Calaveras Big Trees State Park shows campers the fallen tree Hercules, 1947. Photo by Edward Dolder, first supervisor of the Conservation Education section.

The end of World War II brought a huge surge in park use due to a California population boom, better roads, and more automobiles. Correspondingly, the Department's interpretation efforts grew. The Conservation Education section was established in 1946. The boom in park use was causing degradation of natural features. Conservation education was intended to protect park lands by educating the public on rules and regulations, and raising appreciation of nature. About this time the nature guides started to be called park naturalists. In 1947 the summer naturalist program was expanded to five guides, working at Richardson Grove, Calaveras Big Trees, Big Basin Redwoods, Pfeiffer Big Sur and Cuyamaca Rancho.

Leonard Penhale became the first State Parks exhibit designer and fabricator in 1948. His first workshop was at Big Basin Redwoods State Park. He was moved to a new exhibit laboratory in Sacramento in 1952, and given a staff.

Interpretation was also occurring at State Historical Monuments (now called State Historic Parks), the responsibility of each monument's curator. History interpretation received a boost in 1953: Vernon Aubrey Neasham was hired as the first State Historian, heading the new History Section. Among many duties, he oversaw interpretation in the monuments. While he did not directly supervise the curators, he gave them guidance on interpretive techniques. The section also produced publications and advised on historical monument exhibits.

In the meantime, natural history interpretation grew tremendously. By 1957, there were 25 seasonal naturalists in 16 parks, and one full time. Annual trainings increased their professionalism.

The Interpretive Services Section finally combined cultural and natural history interpretation in 1960. It included a naturalist, historian and archeologist.

The first hundred years of growth of California's state park interpretation parallels interpretation's growth in the United States during that time, from a few independent nature guides to an organized program interpreting both cultural and natural history resources in a wide variety of locations. The program has continued to grow and become more sophisticated. State Parks can be proud of an interpretive program that remains vital and up-to-date.

California's Tapestry

A Diversity Feature Article

Summer 2014

"Community Climbs" are taking new steps to connect people to their California State Parks and public lands across California.

By Kristen Perry
State Park Interpreter I
Angeles District

Ten thousand steps equates to roughly 5 miles. You take about 10,000 steps on an average busy day. It doesn't seem like much, but to a group of African American climbers as part of "10,000 Steps to Denali," those final steps they took in June 2013 to climb the highest peak in North America made history, and inspired diversity in the outdoors nationwide. It was the first time a group of African Americans, as one team, climbed the 20,230' mountain.

In partnership with National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS), California State Parks at Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook hosted a local "Steps" event that June, along with thousands of other people and hundreds of sites across the nation. While the Denali group was taking their 10,000 steps in Alaska, the local community was taking their own steps to the top



Community Climbs

Connecting people to their parks.
Join the movement. Exercise your *LEGacy*!

of a state park in Los Angeles. Afterward, we wanted to continue to connect the local communities in Los Angeles to each other, and the outdoors in this way, so we began offering "Community Climbs."

As part of the 150th anniversary of California State Parks, we are reaching out to underserved groups by inviting them to hike to some of the most beautiful views in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. Accessible climbs, and climbs for all abilities are available. We are connecting with various community groups in the urban core, and urging them to "join the *movement* and exercise your legacy."



Other parks can join the movement! We provide the marketing documents and a way for people to connect using #CAParks150, #150LEGacy or our newest project, "I Love You CA Bear." We will continue to reach out and connect people to their parks beyond this important year with one main goal: for California State Parks to remain relevant in the hearts and minds of all Californians.

For our webpage on Community Climbs please go to www.parks.ca.gov/climbs

For the I Love You CA Bear Project go to www.parks.ca.gov/iloveyoucabear

For more information on Expedition Denali 10,000 steps, please visit

<http://expeditiondenali.nols.edu/10000-steps/>



"I Love You California Bears" climb the steps at Baldwin Scenic Overlook

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